

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Insert the following heading between the title and paragraph 0001:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS--.

[0002] The present invention relates to a multi-link conveyor chain which may be used (for example) in the glass industry, in particular to an enclosure member for protecting the integrity of the multi-link conveyor chain during use and to a method for manufacturing the multi-link conveyor chain incorporating said the enclosure member.

[0006] Thus viewed from one aspect the present invention provides a multi-link conveyor chain adapted to provide a substantially flat horizontal surface driveable between a first processing station and a second processing station by engagement with a drive sprocket. The multi-link conveyor chain comprises a plurality of elongate pins spaced apart in substantially parallel relationship including a first elongate pin adjacent to a second elongate pin, each of said the elongate pins having a first end, a second end and a non-circular section. The first end of each elongate pin extends beyond a first edge of the substantially flat horizontal surface. The multi-link conveyor chain further comprises a plurality of link plates mounted on adjacent elongate pins. The link plates have a first link connected to a second link by a connecting portion. The first link and the second link each have a main body and a circumferentially dependent sprocket engaging member, the main body defining a non-circular aperture whose shape essentially matches the non-circular section of an elongate pin. The multi-link conveyor chain further comprises a first enclosure member positioned at the first edge of the substantially flat horizontal surface. The first enclosure member comprises a

main body having a substantially trapezoidal section and defining a first non-circular aperture and a second non-circular aperture. The shape of the first non-circular aperture and the second non-circular aperture essentially matches the non-circular section of the first elongate pin and second elongate pin respectively. The depth of the first and second non-circular apertures is sufficient to enclose the first end of the first elongate pin and of the second elongate pin respectively. Means are provided for retaining the first end of the first elongate pin and the second elongate pin in the first and second non-circular aperture respectively.

[0012] In a preferred embodiment, the means for retaining comprises: a first pin head secured to the first end of the first elongate pin and a second pin head secured to the first end of the second elongate pin, ~~said~~ the first and second pin head being seated in a counterbore in the first and second non-circular aperture of the first enclosure member respectively. Preferably the counterbore is non-tapered (eg cylindrical).

[0015] Preferably the multi-link conveyor comprises: a plurality of elongate pins spaced apart in substantially parallel relationship including a first elongate pin adjacent to a second elongate pin which is adjacent to a third elongate pin, each of ~~said~~ the elongate pins having a first end, a second end and a non-circular section, wherein a plurality of link plates are consecutively mounted in a staggered fashion along the first, second and third elongate pin.

[0037] Thus in a preferred embodiment of the method of the invention, in step (C) the elongate pin is inserted to a position where the first pin head is seated in a counterbore in the first non-circular aperture of the first enclosure member, ~~said~~ the method further comprising:

(E) inserting the second end of the elongate pin into the first non-circular aperture defined by the main body of the second enclosure member to a position where the second end is enclosed within the first non-circular aperture; and

(F) eccentrically spin rivetting a piece of material (eg carbide) onto the second end of the elongate pin to produce a second pin head.

[0043] FIG. 1 illustrates an embodiment of the enclosure member of the invention designated generally by reference numeral 1. The enclosure member 1 comprises a trapezoidal main body 2 having a long side 3 parallel to a short side 4. The corners 3a and 3b of the long side 3 are rounded off (and to a lesser extent so are the corners 4a and 4b of the short side 4). The main body 2 defines a first non-circular aperture 5 and a second non-circular aperture 6, each of which are elliptical and provided with a cylindrical counterbore 5a and 6a respectively. The illustrated counterbores 5a and 6a are non-tapered.